

and I saw it in the faces of the
bosses with their dumb wet lips and
their little rivet eyes: blue, brown,
green;
I heard it in the click of timeclocks,
saw it spread like powder across the
faces of my religious landladies;
I saw it along the bare carpeted
stairways
always seeming to lead to some 2nd
floor of some rooming house in
Houston, in New Orleans, in St. Louis,
in L.A., in Frisco, wherever I was,
and I saw it in the doorknob and I saw
it in the room sitting on the quilt
on the bed
waiting nicely
nicely waiting ...

and in some bar
after hours of drinking
somebody saying, "hey, Hank, you
ever tried Big Eddie?"
Big Eddie grins, I see it in his
teeth, I finish my beer,
nod at him, get up, walk toward
the rear entrance, Big Eddie and
the crowd following, and outside
I see it in the moon and the bricks
as the patrons lay their bets
I am the underdog, and as Big
Eddie charges I see it in his
feet and along the buttons of
his shirt and I hear a horn
honk somewhere far off, and
it's a decent a time as a man
can expect.

YOU CAN'T TELL A TURKEY BY ITS FEATHERS

my son, my father said, if you only had some
ambition, you have no
get up and go! no
drive!
it's hard for me to believe that you are really
my son.

yeah, I
said.

I mean, he went on, how are you going to
make it?
your mother is worried sick and the neighbors
think you're some kind of
imbecile.
what are you going to
do?
we can't take care of you all your
life!

I'm 15 now, I told him, I won't be around
much longer.

but look at you, you just sit around in your room
all day! other
boys have jobs, paper routes, Jim Slover works
as an usher at the
Bayou!

HOW IN THE HELL ARE YOU EVER GOING TO
SURVIVE IN THIS
WORLD?

I don't
know ...

you make me SICK! sometimes, having a son like
you, I wish I were
dead.

well, he did die. he died around 30 years
ago.

and last year I paid
\$29,000 in income
tax.

-- Charles Bukowski

San Pedro CA

GLORIA KENISON: WR: 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23ss, 26ss,
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